

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER

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PERILOUS FOOLING.

While the Country Seethes with Unrest, Congress Sleeps On.

Charles Edward Russell in the Coming Nation.

With one state of this Union in an admitted condition of civil war with strikes increasing on all sides and steadily becoming more bitter, more determined and more violent, with half of the nation's transportation service threatened with paralysis because of the stupid avarice of a gang of watered stock promoters, with every sign of the profound and growing discontent of the working class, with the law enforced upon work-ers that revolt and powerless against the capitalists that trample upon it, with the increasing cost of living gripping all the poor, with the whole concern thus visibly sliding down the roof before the eyes of all observers, the Congress of the United States can find nothing to do but to debate whether we shall waste money upon two junk-heap battle ships or only one, and whether the silly and childish inauguration parade shall cost \$150,000 or only \$125,000.

That's the exact situation, and if you know of another example of doddering ineptitude fit to match with this, mention it and get a prize.

In the midst of a state of anarchy that you would think would startle and appall any man in the street, to say nothing of professed statesmen and guiding patriots, these old dodos at Washington sit around and fiddle with their watch guards and play the games of senile debility.

Not a measure has been past to deal with the acute crisis so evidently at hand; not a suggestion is made by these eminent ones that has any relation to the real state of the country.

The conditions in West Virginia alone would be enough to jar any legislators that were not mentally atrophied and pickled. Here is a state that has practically seceded from the Union and presents a spectacle of riot and chaos not to be equaled anywhere outside of the zone of the Balkan war.

The real government is the lawless, powerful greedy coal trust. It owns coal mines in remote regions where there is no pretense of any other law than its own will.

It maltreats, oppresses and robs its miners. It keeps them in a state of abject slavery. It plunders them in many ways. It robs them in their work and in their homes.

Some of them revolt and go on strike against these impositions. Then the trust sends down an army of its own unauthorized and irresponsible thugs and ruffians, and for months the region is the scene of bloody battles between these forces.

When the thugs and ruffians can make but little headway against the aroused miners the pliable governor of the state orders out the state militia to assist the thugs and declares martial law.

A great force of the state's soldiers surrounds the strikers, captures about one hundred of them and looks them up on various charges ranging from murder and sedition to petty assault.

These men and women, citizens of the United States are openly deprived of every right that the constitution provides for persons in their situations. They cannot get bail, they cannot be tried by the courts, the writ of habeas corpus is denied them, they are confined without warrant or legal procedure.

They are now in prison under military guard, to be tried when the officers of the militia please to bring them forth for trial and then be tried by a military commission.

MILITARY Commission. Note that. Here, then, is a situation of the utmost gravity.

The capital charges against these prisoners are all of the familiar "accessory before the fact" variety. They are accused of inciting men to violence and therefore of responsibility for the loss of life in the battle with the thugs.

In the last twelve months two desperate attempts have been made in the state courts of this country to uphold this charge with ordinary criminal proceedings.

One was in Louisiana in the case of the revolting Timber Trust and the other in Massachusetts in the case of the revolting of the Woolen Trust slaves.

Both of these attempts failed. Juries refused to convict under such a charge.

These miscarriages caused savage resentment among the members of the employing class. I know how savage, for I have been privileged to hear some of their remarks.

In West Virginia there is to be no taking of chances with juries. The revolting slaves of the Coal Trust are to be tried by a military commission.

Which means by a court martial before which the defendants will not have a right except such as the court martial may be willing to allow. No juries, no rules of procedure, no protection.

That is the game now. Against the force of aroused public opinion the juries in the regular courts will not recognize this "accessory before the fact" that the masters are so anxious to establish. Create, therefore, military courts that are outside the bounds of established proceedings and can do as they like.

SAME OLD STORY

The politicians have made a discovery, and that is that honesty and fair dealing in politics are just as essential to financial success as in business. In Pennsylvania under the lead of Quay and later of Penrose, crookedness in politics reached the limit, but what profit did the grafters get out of it? Quay died dishonored and unsung. Three of his prominent followers were sent to prison and several others were indicted and died while awaiting trial from prolonged nervous strain, disgrace and exposure. One committed suicide, the political careers of several more were brought to a sudden end. The commonwealth recovered by civil suit \$1,500,000 from the estates of others. Several more were convicted last week for attempt to swindle the city of Philadelphia who attempted to continue the game long after others had met their fate or left the field of crooked politics.—St. Joseph Observer.

That is all true and ought to be a good object lesson. But when an honest man has no chance in politics, what are you going to do about it?

Capitalism demands the Quays and Penroses everywhere. It couldn't do business without them. And until they are uncovered these lackeys of the plutocracy cut a wide swath. The press sings their praises and the platform and often the pulpit rings with their laudations.

Men who represent grafters cannot be expected to be honest. When the plutocrats back a man for a public job they do it as a business proposition, and they very seldom back the wrong man.

Did you ever own a piece of land where the title vested at certain periods by descent from some one dying without a will? If you have you should be very much interested in preserving the probate records from destruction, for their loss would break an important link in the chain of your title. Vote YES on March 25 and avoid this danger. Advertised.

As pie hunters the Democrats take the ribbon. And they seem just a little hungrier now than usual. In the Missouri legislature there are bills pending to create 75 new offices with salaries attached amounting to \$200,000 annually. Then add to these the deputies and assistants and see what an addition it will be to the already overgrown political machine. And yet good Democrats who are apparently intelligent, will tell you that government ownership would create a political machine.

It is gratifying to know that in the court house discussion there has never been an intimation but what the country is actually getting full money's worth in the building which is being erected. Persons heretofore indifferent to the proposition, after having seen the building, become enthusiastic in support of its completion. After the building is completed there won't be a citizen of Scott county who will not point with pride to the fine court house and rejoice in its erection. Vote YES. Advertised.

Two near-by papers seems to have got themselves into serious trouble over telling something approaching the truth about moral conditions in their respective towns. One is the Chaffee Signal and the other is the Charleston Republican. While the truth of the statements made by these papers is not denied, yet they are accused of "hurting the town." That is the plute hiding spot every time. "Shut your eyes and don't see it," he says to the editor. "For it hurts my business of gathering rent interest and profit." Then he goes to church and sits in the Amen corner.

"We will send you to the work-house," said a policeman to a girl striker of the garment workers of New York. "What do I care for going to a work-house?" replied the girl. "I have never been anywhere else since I began to work." What can capitalism do with such conditions. A worker is imprisoned whether in free or penal servitude.

Have you children going to school? Vote to finish the court house so that the tax books may be preserved from loss or destruction. If the tax books of this year should be destroyed, you would have no funds with which to keep up the schools for a year at least. Vote YES. Advertised.

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DOCTORING THE SYMPTOMS.

What would you think of a doctor who should try to cure an eruption on the skin, or an abscess by applying soothing lotions or plasters, when it is a well known fact that the cause of the eruption is in the blood?

Eruptions on different parts of the body, nasal catarrh and affections of the throat and lungs are not diseases but symptoms of disease. The disease, cause of all these troubles, is in the blood.

A great deal is being said of the wickedness and violation of law in Chaffee, but drunkenness, prostitution, and law-breaking are only the symptoms, effects; the real cause of all sin is the heart. Therefore the only efficient reformation is the reformation of the heart.

The Church is the only place in the land that proposes to reform the lives of men by a "change of heart."

The above appeared in the Chaffee Signal last week. A. E. Wade is a minister and very correctly states the position of the church concerning present day conditions.

I agree with him that you cannot remedy an evil by doing the symptoms—the effects. We must go to the root. But beyond this is where we differ—and, perhaps, not so very widely either. It depends on what he means by a "change of heart."

Mayor Lunn, of Schenectady, New York, is a minister and was addressing an assembly of ministers. When he said that what the massed need is food shelter and clothing, he was interrupted by a minister who piped out: "No, brother, what they need is the grace of God."

To which Mayor Lunn replied, "If you went through the streets of Schenectady clothed in nothing but the grace of God, it would be my duty, as mayor, to arrest you."

To change the heart you must first change the environment—the conditions—surrounding that heart. The cannibal feels no remorse at devouring a fat missionary. Neither is the heart or conscience of a capitalist annoyed while living fat off the misery and starvation of the masses.

The church is the only place in the land that proposes to reform the lives of men by a change of heart," says Rev. Wade.

Well, the church has been on the job for 1,000 years. "By their fruits ye shall know them." Will a "change of heart" feed the hungry, clothe the naked and house the homeless? These are the problems to be solved.

GROPING IN THE DARK.

The editor of the Pemiscot Argus is wading around in the capitalist mire in about the same spot that the Kicker was in about six years ago. He ce here are many things that come to pass that are beyond his understanding. In his last issue he complains:

"In case No. 1201, J. H. Elder was charged with permitting a minor to play pool in his poolroom on November 30, 1912, but was acquitted by a jury under the order of the court because he was not a licensed keeper of a poolroom on that day. In case No. 1203, Mr. Elder was charged with violating the law by conducting a poolroom without a license, and again he was acquitted by a jury. Strange, you say? Contradictory? Perhaps a more extended explanation would be better."

Of course the editor is puzzled. He is one of those innocent Rubes who imagine that the law is an inflexible something that deals out even-handed justice to all, at all times, and he has been trained to believe that courts are the "crooked" institution. Hence he cannot understand how a man can be acquitted of a violation because of having violated another law, and then be acquitted of having violated that other law! That is enough to puzzle any bone-head.

But let me enlighten the Argus man. The conditions of a community reflect the material interests of the people who rule in that community, and it is to these people that "law and order" responds.

Caruthersville is a wide-open town and its "best people" profit from its vice. They may, and very probably do, go to church and, outwardly, look very good and pious; yet if they did not approve of all these things they would not be.

The banks handle the deposits of the vice resorts. The merchants seek their trade. And by far the most seductive bait is the high rents paid the pious landlords.

Then comes the high license of the saloon, and the fines paid by dive-keepers. Why, your government could not exist without the revenue from its vices. In fact, it is the cornerstone of financial support.

Look at the millions and billions that the people pay across the bar in taxes annually. Do you suppose the propertied class want that burden shifted to themselves?

Oh, you innocent Rube. You think that these "best people" are against vice because they contribute money to the church, the W. C. T. U., and so on. But while they are putting one dollar in that direction they are putting five in another direction to elect men to office who will not interfere with their "business."

They want "reliable" men. And they generally get them.

WHERE THE TROUBLE LIES.

Wilson and Marshall were inaugurated Tuesday, and the party of promises is now in full control. Watch them fix it.

Wilson threatens to call an ex-session of congress. That is what Cleveland did.

The political and economic doctors are all busy now telling us what is wrong with society, and how to fix it. Every reformer has his particular hobby and is cock sure that he has discovered the whole trouble.

The prohibitionist would set us right by abolishing the liquor traffic. He has been on the job ever since the liquor traffic set in and the traffic grows faster than his following. But the white slave traffic and prostitution do not bother him. Neither does women nor child labor in the factories, mills and sweat-shops. He is only interested in "saving the boys."

The old Populist is sure that the trouble lies in our financial system and is still yawning for the free coinage of silver—forgetting that one kind of metal can be as easily cornered as another. If it is possible to corner fruit, meat and oil, I guess they could manage silver as well.

Then come Coxey and his good roads advocates—backed by the automobile trust. They tell us to build "market roads" so the farmer can haul more and at less cost. What the railroads, elevators and commission men take is not bothering them.

The ministers tell us that what we need is "true religion." But with an object lesson close at hand, it would be dangerous to press that claim very far. Mexico has the claim "Christ" civilization on this continent. I believe. There are no public schools in Mexico. The education of the country is entirely left to "the church." And in no so-called civilized country are the masses any more ignorant and barbarous.

I must here refer to a little controversy that appeared in the Jackson Cashbook last week, between Father Collins, the local priest, and Editor McGuire. Like quite all newspapers, the Cashbook had mentioned the barbarous conditions in Mexico and the low standard of intelligence among the masses. Unconsciously the editor tramped around on Father Collins' toes considerably, and the priest came back in the Cashbook in defense of the intellectual and moral standards of the Mexican masses, and pictured them as even better educated than our own working class.

Says Father Collins: "Box on, New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Buffalo, New Orleans and other cities of this union are like home cities to me, so well do I know them; yet I saw more poor laborers reading the morning papers in different cities of Mexico than I saw in any American city. To read a newspaper means some knowledge of letters."

Good! I like such frank confessions from our own educators. All along the Kicker has claimed we have nothing on either Russia or Mexico. And here comes Father Collins to back me up. The free born American voting king, according to Father Collins, does less reading than the poor slaves of Mexico! And, judging from the mess he makes of it at the ballot box, the degree of intelligence does not widely differ on matters political.

It is all right, Bro. Mc, to condemn barbarism and illiteracy in the Mexican, but don't try to show that we are their superiors. If you do, Father Collins will get you every time. The same forces are at work in Mexico as here, and the same causes produce the same results everywhere. Father Collins goes on and hands this to Bro. McGuire:

"Last year, in the United States there were over 100,000 divorces, over 18,000 murders, over 8,000 suicides, official investigation after official investigation to ferret out and punish frauds in high places, confidence lost to such a degree in our judges and other officials—judicial, legislative and executive—that a public clamor arises all over the land for a method of recall. We have over two million white slaves, and are having hundreds of thousands. With the few exceptions already described, there is but an infinitesimal part, if any, of this to be found in Mexico."

Smoke that in your pipe, Bro. Mc. You cannot deny the conditions as he describes them in this country—for they are lamentably true. Unfortunately Father Collins forgets to suggest any cure. That is where all our wise men fall down. But it is something to have he appalling facts admitted by the defenders of Capitalism in a quarrel among themselves. Go to it!

But—returning to our political doctors. Of course the tariff and the trust are old stand-bys. These have served the politicians long. Ever since I can remember the cry of the Democrats has been: "Put us in; we'll fix it." The people gave them control of the whole works in 1892—and they sure fixed it. The days of Grover will long be remembered. As a protest against existing conditions the Dems are again in complete control—not only of the nation, but in nearly all of the states.

Now watch them fix it. Subscribe for the only Kicker.

THEN AND NOW.

Some 35 years ago I spent six months in Pemiscot county on a little newspaper at Gayoso—then the county seat. At that time the county was what is called "undeveloped." The patriots had not yet arrived to grab everything. Everybody had plenty to eat and wear and the people were happy and neighborly. You couldn't hire a horse to ride to a neighboring town but anybody would lend you one.

About 15 years ago railroads began building in there and capitalist development set in. And with it the inevitable crime it produces. From the last issue of the Pemiscot Argus these items are taken:

Affairs are certainly coming to a pretty condition, when robbers are permitted to go upon the main street of the city, within forty or fifty feet of a large electric light, break a large window, enter a store and get away with enough goods to load down two or three men or require a dray. The next thing likely will be the wholesale robbery of some store and the taking out of the goods by the wagon load.

The young people of the city seem to be interested in church and Sunday school work. Each church has its League or Union and interesting and instructive services are held every Sunday evening.

The alleged restaurants near the depot are hot beds of vice in this city, and should be suppressed. On last Friday afternoon, seven women were seen to be hanging about three of the places, and some of the women were persons well known to the police. Were there for any good purpose? It is very improbable that they were, yet the city officials permitted them to remain without molesting them.

The Methodist Sunday school and the Baptist are running a close contest as to attendance. The latter having gained rapidly of late on its larger rival. The attendance last Sunday was 166 for the Methodist and 153 for the Baptists.

The men who have been pleading guilty to gambling at the present term of court are meeting a sort of new dispensation. In that they have to pay the sheriff the amount of the fine and costs before leaving the court room.

Rev. Abe C. Jones, representing the Mission Home Society of St. Louis, spent several days in our city this week. He visited the Sunday schools and occupied the pulpit at the Methodist church Sunday morning. Quite a number of our citizens are contributors to this cause, the taking of children and placing them in proper homes.

One of the astonishing developments here of late is the ignorance or the negligence of some of the county officials as to the law governing their actions. Take the question of the jury and the presiding judge acknowledged that he knew the law governing the selection of the body was not being complied with but that he was following the "old custom," which was directly contrary to the statute. In connection, also, with the granting of licenses for pool rooms, the statute prescribes their granting by the county court, yet the county clerk and the collector have virtually ignored the same. We might expect the prosecuting attorney to have known something about these things but for the fact that he had formerly confessed his ignorance of the law to escape punishment on a criminal charge.

At the preliminary hearing of Luther Lee, of Sikeston, at Jackson last week, Lee was bound over to the circuit court in the sum of \$300.

Three Dunklin county children were bitten by a mad dog and are in St. Louis for treatment in the Pasteur Institute.

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IN THE SOUTHEAST.

What the People are Doing in Other Counties that are Near.

Bloomfield Vindicator.—Mrs.

Geo. H. Crosser had a lively five minutes in her kitchen with what threatened to be a serious, if not disastrous fire. While cooking breakfast Mrs. Crosser had put a pan of fat meat trimmings into the range oven to render out. After the morning meal was over she continued the fire in the range and was doing some ironing having forgotten the fat in the oven. The range was pretty hot and the meat evidently generated a gas which caught fire causing an explosion which blew the oven door open and filled a considerable part of the kitchen with flames. Mrs. Crosser, after vain endeavors to get the pan of burning grease out, the flames from which were reaching the ceiling, ran to a neighbor hoping to get some fire dust. Failing to do so she telephoned for Mr. Crosser by the time he arrived the fire had gone out of its own accord. The heat was sufficient to crack the glass in the kitchen door and while the fire lasted gave Mrs. Crosser a lively time.

J. H. Rivers was given judgment for \$2,100 against W. W. Norman, of Hunterville. Rivers alleged that he had been harassed by Norman filing suits against him without cause. If I could hope for anything approaching justice in Scott county, the Kicker might be able to show up a pretty good case of this sort. If the other fellow had anything. But it would be pretty hard to establish a frame-up where the whole machine took part in it.

It may strengthen the patriotism of the cross-roads merchant who thinks himself an important section of Big Business, to learn that Montgomery Ward & Co., of Chicago will increase their capital to forty million dollars and establish various branch houses throughout the country. The scheme will be financed by J. P. Morgan & Co.

Bloomfield Vindicator.—Henry McNew bought the largest hog ever marketed in this city. The hog, a stag, was marketed by George Bryant, who lives two miles west of town. The animal weighed 734 pounds and after standing a dock of \$9 pounds, brought Mr. Bryant \$49.05.

In the contest for the sheriff's job in Butler county the Democrat, who claimed that the election of his opponent was illegal because his name appeared on both the Republican and Bull Moose tickets, lost. The case was appealed.

The Dunklin county Democratic central committee met last week to endorse candidates for the postoffice. If Wilson don't upset that civil service business of Taft's he'll have some mighty mad Democrats.

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St. Louis Star.—Charles B. Miller, a farmer of Cape Girardeau, arrested two weeks ago on a warrant charging him with wife and child abandonment was dismissed by Judge Calvin N. Miller in the Court of Criminal Correction, Saturday. The charge of wife abandonment was dismissed after Miller's arrest, but the charge of deserting his two children, Helen, 11 years old, and Lucile, 9 years old was taken under advisement.

The testimony Saturday was that Miller was a man of good reputation, that he had tried to get his wife to leave St. Louis and live with him on his farm at Cape Girardeau. Miller is said to be worth \$25,000 represented by a \$15,000 farm in Missouri and \$10,000 in real estate in Texas.

Society don't know what to do with its unfortunate. Down at Sikeston Jerry Sullivan, a tramp, had both legs cut off by a Frisco train. "He was carried to Dr. Miller's office where the legs were amputated. Today the railroad was called upon to take charge of the tramp, and refused. Then the county court was appealed to with the same result. Then the city officials decided that as the railroad and county don't care to stand the expense the city should not be expected to. Jerry is still in the doctor's office and is getting along all right," says the Standard.

Jackson Correspondent to Cape Republican.—The Big Spring telephone company has completed its system from Jackson to Big Springs school house, and is one more link in the chain of rural systems in this county. All these companies with over 700 subscribers will certainly come to this city in the near future, not over the Bell wires, but with their own system. The farmers are organizing, and this will be one of the first things that will be looked after by the organization.

New Madrid Record: The Record has information that Mrs. Opelia Hems, living with her father at Marston, undertook to start a fire quickly last Monday morning with coal oil, got hold of the gasoline can, and an awful explosion followed. The lady's infant child was burned so badly that it died that night, and the mother lived till noon next day.

Mrs. Lucy Owen died in Dunklin county last week aged 85 years. She was born in Kentucky and located in Dunklin county with her parents, near where Malden now is, in 1844. Her husband was a judge of the county court before Dunklin was carved out of Stoddard.

Jackson Items.—Ward Gillen, a mule buyer, was here last week and while in the county purchased 22 mules—twelve of them from Hix Estes. He informed us that they were the finest bunch he ever bought—the price ranging from \$225 to 250 a head.

Poplar Bluff is going in for brick streets. A recent order of the council including 14 thoroughfares that are to be graded and paved with brick at an early day. Subscribe for the only Kicker.

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